

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2071

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY CRIMMINS FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, EAID, EMIN, BL

SUBJ: RELATING PROPOSED TIN SALES TO ADDITIONAL PL-480 REQUEST

REF: LA PAZ 1980, 2037, 2038 AND 2062

1. REFTEL 2037 RELATES AN URGENT REQUEST BY MININDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ORMACHEA, FOLLOWING AN EARLIER PERSONAL APPEAL BY PRESIDENT

BANZER, TO INCREASE THE CURRENT PL-480 WHEAT AGREEMENT BY AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF 80,000 TONS OF FLOUR UNDER THE PL-480 AGREEMENT. THE PURPOSE BEING TO AVOID A BREAD CRISIS LATER THIS YEAR WHICH COULD HAVE GRAVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS ON THE BANZER GOVERNMENT.

2. THE OTHER REFTELS COVER MY EFFORTS TO URGE UPON BOLIVIAN CABINET OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE MINING SECTOR AND THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF (REFTEL 2062) A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE IN THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE SALE OF STOCKPILE TIN. AS THE LATER REFERENCES INDICATE, THE PRESIDENT PROMISED THAT RATHER THAN TAKE A TOTALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST, BOLIVIA WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE IN SEEKING SOME FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE SALE OF SOME TIN WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, NOT HURTING BOLIVIAN INTERESTS.

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3. I BELIEVE WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN ELICITING THE ATTITUDE WHICH THE PRESIDENT NOW SAYS WILL CHARACTERIZE BOLIVIAN APPROACH TO TIN CONSULTATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF WE COULD USE IN THESE CONUSLTATIONS AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT AND IN THE APPROPRIATE WAY SOME ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS WHICH THIS COUNTRY IS MAKING TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND IMPROVE WELLBEING OF THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE. CLEARLY, A BREAD CRISIS COULD BE DESTRUCTIVE OF THE EFFORTS WE AND THE BANZER GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE SO FAR AND THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF A LACK OF BREAD COULD BE DEVASTATING. OBVIOUSLY A SHORTAGE IN THIS YEAR OF 80,000 TONS OF FLOUR MUST MEAN NOT JUST AN INCREASE IN PRICE, WHICH WOULD ITSELF BE SEVERE, BUT, PRESUMABLY, A VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF ANY BREAD WHATSOEVER. THIS, THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT STAND.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT PRIORITY, FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE BOLIVIAN REQUEST FOR WHEAT TRANSMITTED BY LA PAZ 2037 SO THAT SUCH INSTRUCTIONS AS WE MAY RECEIVE CONCERNING TIN CONSULTATIONS WILL INCLUDE, AS A PALLIATIVE TO THE SALE OF TIN ON SOME ACCEPTABLE FORMULA, OUR ABILITY TO OFFER VIA PL-480 AN INCREASE SO AS TO MEET THE GOB' S URGENT NEEDS FOR FLOUR IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR.
SIRACUSA

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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